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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BRYAN POSTHUMUS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Dear Director Hertel,

On behalf of Michigan student-athletes and families, I want to thank you for your leadership as director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) over the past month. The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) has reported efficient communication between their office and your own, and I look forward to working together to find solutions for athletes and their families.

MHSAA has recently updated its guidelines, allowing only two guests per athlete at sporting events with the decision as to who can be included in that guest list at each district's discretion. A consequence of this action has been the exclusion of siblings as attendees at certain schools, creating logistical challenges for families, hardships for single parents, and negatively impacting traditional family values.

We should be supporting our students and their families at every corner, not creating more of a struggle for those already enduring tough times. Turning away siblings as guests at high school events puts a burden on the entire family as parents are forced to unnecessarily prioritize their own children's importance.

I understand certain guidelines are necessary as we continue to navigate uncharted territory, however I strongly believe it is time to make a change to the current system after watching it fail Michigan families.

Other Midwest states, notably Ohio and Indiana, allow spectators to attend without capacity limits. Ohio has directly suggested limiting crowds at high school sporting events to parents and immediate family members only. I am hoping you will join me in supporting a small guideline change that will have a significant impact, and which is already seeing success in bordering states.

My strategy for solving this issue includes the introduction of a resolution and bill package on the Michigan House floor to utilize our powers as a legislative body in order to create change. These measures would exclude all immediate family members from current capacity limitations and will resolve problematic scenarios for families while giving school districts flexibility.

With your direct and immediate intervention, these measures can be avoided.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to talking to you soon about this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Posthumus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Representative Bryan Posthumus
73rd House District